concentrated ostensibly for training since the second week of October. Such formations in the close proximity of the international border, are being closely monitored. It has also been reported that Pakistani Air Force has deployed some of their fighter squadrons at air base near Karachi.

(d) Activities of Pakistan along the western borders of India are constantly monitored and a high state of vigilance is maintained. Adequate measures have been taken to meet any threat and to ensure security of border.

**Suspension of payment of pension to army personnel and their dependants**

318. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of ex-army personnel or their spouses/ dependants whose pension has been suspended on various grounds, including espionage, for years on end, irrespective of the age of the recipients; and

(b) what steps are taken by Government to monitor and keep an eye on such defaults and delays?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Army Pension Regulations, if a pensioner is sentenced to imprisonment for a criminal offence, his pension is suspended from the date of his imprisonment. Action to restore the suspended pension is taken by the Competent Authority only after the individual applies for the same on release from imprisonment. The actual number of pensioners, whose pension has been suspended is not available as no separate statistics in this regard are being maintained.